University Grants Commission (UGC), there are 1923 teaching posts out of 9261 teaching posts lying vacant in Central Universities as on 31/10/2007 (21%). The Commission has so far collected information from 74 State Universities where 627 teaching positions are vacant as on 1/5/2007. The UGC has been advising all the Central Universities to fill up the vacant posts in Universities. It has also issued a circular (dated 23/3/2006) to all State Governments to fill up the vacant teaching posts as per norms of the Commission, because appointment of faculty on contract, part-time and as guest-faculty on long-term basis affects the quality of higher education. The Central Government has already increased the age of superannuation from 62 years to 65 years in respect of teachers of Centrally funded Technical and Higher Educational Institutions which come under the purview of Ministry of Human Resource Development to overcome the shortage of experienced teachers. The State Governments have also been requested to take similar action.

Regulatory mechanism for private educational institutes

2840. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission appointed by Government, is in favour of regulatory mechanism for private educational institutions in the country to ensure good quality education;

(b) if so, whether, according to them there should be some kind of regulatory mechanism for privately run educational institutions;

(c) whether they have already made recommendations in this regard to Government; and

(d) if so, how many of its recommendations have, so far, been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) In its Report to the Nation (2006) the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has made several recommendations pertaining to higher education. One of the recommendations of the NKC is to change the system of regulation for higher education. The NKC has recommended establishment of an Independent Regulatory of Higher Education, which would be responsible for setting the criteria and deciding on entry; agency authorized to accord degree granting power to higher education institutions, responsible for monitoring and settling disputes, be the authority for licensing accreditation and would apply exactly the same norms for public and private institutions, just as it would apply the same norms to domestic and international institutions. However, no decision has been taken on the recommendations made by the NKC.

Shortage of faculty in IITs and IIMs

2841. SHRI T.T.V DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: